

The Thirties

England for a few days, his presence was scarcely noticed. Even in the United States, where the romantic circumstances of his abdication had been so strenuously publicised, his fame dwindled; a projected visit there, under the unpopular auspices of Mr. Bedoux, originator of a scheme for speeding up factory production, was abandoned in consequence of unfavourable newspaper comments upon it; and the American lecture-tour of the clergyman who officiated at his marriage, discounted for lack of support.

An episode which, it was often said, would never lose its fascination, became uninteresting even before it was ended. Like a glutton who eats the early courses of a dinner so voraciously that he has no appetite left for the savoury, public curiosity was sated by the time the Duke's reward for the sacrifice of a kingdom became available; that he should choose to abdicate rather than renounce the woman he loved, was enthralling, but when, having abdicated, he came to marry her, the event was little noticed. Even in South Wales, he was no more beloved; he had said that something would be done, and nothing had been done, and the Cap d'Antibes, where he took up his residence, was too unlike the Rhondda Valley, too undepressed an area, for much sympathy to flow between the two in either direction. Whatever of his popularity remained, finding expression, for instance, in the purchase of Edward VIII coronation mugs, and other mementoes of his short reign, perished in the icy blast of hatred which continued to blow from Printing House Square, Church House and other high places even after its

purpose had
been served—that frigid, calculated hatred which
the English
upper classes reserve for those they have
unremuneratively
adulated.

Having destroyed one King's popularity, it was
necessary to
establish another's; and by the time King George
VI's Corona-
tion took place, to judge by the enthusiasm of the
crowds which
assembled to watch it, the status quo ante had
been restored.
George V might have been again on the Throne;
indeed, the
resemblance between the new King and his father,
in. character,